



Swingin', Olde School Style



By Stephen Childress

If you're looking for a unique golfing getaway, the Olde English District is the perfect place to find both inexpensive and incredible golfing opportunities.

Featuring undulating terrain and stately stands of Carolina pines, the Olde English District offers its own distinct brand of golf showcasing layouts by Donald Ross, Russell Breeden, Tom Jackson and other legendary designers. While varying somewhat in look and feel from the well-known coastal courses, the layouts here provide challenging shot-making and breathtaking natural beauty on a budget.



Lancaster Golf Club #7

It's rare to find a par-3 with a true island green, and the 7th at Lancaster Golf Club doesn't disappoint. Bring an extra sleeve of golf balls though, especially if you're the kind of golfer that scares easily.



Here are our five favorite Olde English District holes that are must-plays for any golfer travelling through the state.

5 The 12th hole at the Russell Breeden-designed Chester Golf Course is a formidable hole sure to challenge golfers of all skill levels. At 560-yards, this par-5 is a dogleg left featuring a large lake that cuts in and out of the fairway calling for pinpoint accuracy with both your drive and your approach shot. Just hitting the green in regulation can feel like a moral victory on this monster.



Chester Golf Course #12

4 The par-3 17th at Cheraw State Park Golf Course is one of Tom Jackson's most scenic holes. Stunning Lake Juniper provides the backdrop for this 160-yard shot from a slightly elevated tee box to a green guarded by three large bunkers on the right. Let the beauty of this hole distract you, and you're sure to post a crooked number.

3 The third spot is occupied by an inspiring par-4 at Springfield Golf Club, designed by Clyde Johnston and located in Fort Mill. The 425-yard 7th hole features a long, narrow green with a steep 70-foot drop off on the right side and a deep bunker on the left. In other words, there's no room to bail out, so you may as well shoot for the stick.



The 7th hole at Springfield Golf Club is the first of three challenging but rewarding holes that the locals call "The Other Amen Corner," borrowing the name from the Augusta National's famed three-hole stretch. Making it through the 7th, 8th and 9th at Springfield with three pars feels almost as good as carding three birdies.

2 The long 492-yard par-4 13th at Cheraw State Park Golf Course is another hole that is as challenging as it is beautiful. Featuring water both in front of and behind the green, some locals prefer to layup and hope to get up and down for par with a short wedge from the fairway. We say go for it. The risk is worth the reward.

1 Our favorite hole is the 155-yard, par-3 7th at Lancaster Golf Club, a course designed by Ross and Breeden. This is one of those holes you'll love to play again and again. Reminiscent of the famous 17th at the TPC at Sawgrass, the large island green demands respect while remaining accessible to golfers of all skill levels.

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